

Message

From: Morning Consult [Energy=MorningConsult.com@emailcampaigns.net]
on behalf of Morning Consult [Energy@MorningConsult.com]
Sent: 12/15/2014 1:56:45 PM
To: Thomas, Deb [thomas.debrah@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Oil Prices Rise on Libya Violence; Climate Framework Penned in Lima

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By Davis Burroughs ([@DAVISBURROUGHS](#))

Today's Washington Brief:

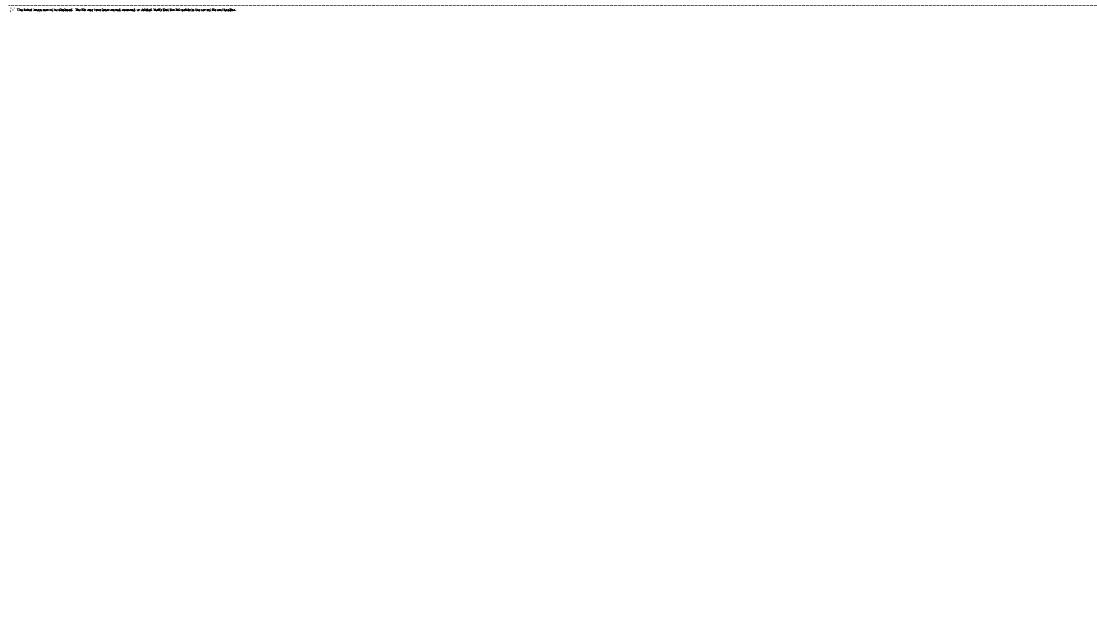
- International envoys agreed to the first ever deal committing every country in the world to reduced fossil fuel use, but the climate pact leaves something to be desired, Coral Davenport writes for the New York Times.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency won't say when it will issue new Renewable Fuel Standard requirements, which is causing some lawmakers to double down on reforming the ethanol mandate, Morning Consult reports.
- Incoming Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell warned overseas audiences that U.S. climate pledges should be met with skepticism, because new management is taking over Congress, the Washington Examiner reports.

Today's Business Brief:

- Violence in Libya disrupted oil output this morning, driving up global prices, the Wall Street Journal reports.
- OPEC hasn't set an oil-price target, the United Arab Emirates' energy minister said, and won't cut output even if prices fall below \$40 a barrel, Bloomberg News reports.
- Cheap oil prices undermine the economic benefits of building the Keystone XL oil pipeline. Politico reports that could give President Obama reason to delay a decision on the pipeline further.

Today's Chart Review:

AAA: Consumers now saving \$100 per month on gasoline
from Fuel Fix by Ryan Holeywell



Mark Your Calendars (All Times Eastern):

Monday: IEA call & webinar on Medium-Term Coal Market Report @ 9 am
Monday: USEA discussion on social cost or benefit of CO2 @ 10 am
Monday: N. American Energy Ministers Meeting @ 12:15 pm
Tuesday: NRC meeting on test reactor initiatives @ 9 am
Tuesday: CSIS discussion on climate-related investment @ 9:30 am
Tuesday: RFF & EPRI webinar on air & climate benefits of CPP @ 12 pm
Tuesday: ELI seminar on green infrastructure in action @ 12 pm
Wednesday: ACORE webinar on empowering consumers w/renewables @ 12 pm

Wednesday: CSIS conference on revisiting role of coal @ 1 pm
Wednesday: Senate EPW hearing on ozone standards @ 2:30 pm
Wednesday: JHU seminar on energy and national security @ 6 pm
Thursday: Earnings Reports: SandRidge Energy Inc.
Thursday: FERC open meeting @ 10 am
Thursday: Energy Central webinar on future of power in America @ 12 pm
Thursday: Bipartisan Policy Center in-depth review of U.S. energy policy @ 2 pm

NEWS ARTICLES

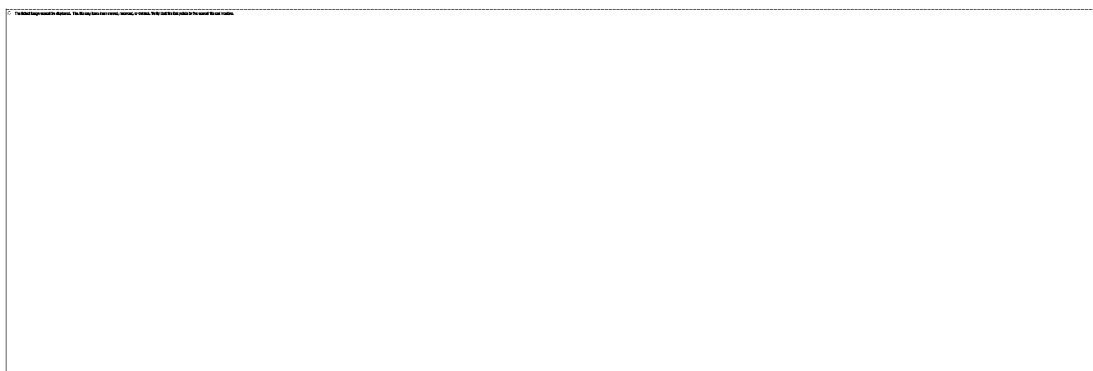
1-9: General
10-15: Oil
16-17: Utilities and Infrastructure
18-20: Coal
21-22: Renewables

OPINIONS, EDITORIALS, PERSPECTIVES

23: Morning Consult
24: The Hill

RESEARCH REPORTS, ISSUE BRIEFS, CASE STUDIES

25: Yale's Environment 360
26: U.S. Energy Information Administration



NEWS ARTICLES

General

1) Paris climate summit faces tougher job after modest Lima deal from Reuters by Alister Doyle and Valerie Volcovici

A Paris summit in 2015 will face a tougher task to agree a U.N. deal to slow climate change after the hopes of many that cooperation between Washington and Beijing would be a magic key to end global gridlock dissolved in chaotic preparatory talks in Lima.

2) A Climate Accord Based on Global Peer Pressure from the New York Times by Coral Davenport

Shortly before 2 a.m. on Sunday, after more than 36 straight hours of negotiations, top officials from nearly 200 nations agreed to the first deal committing every country in the world to reducing the fossil fuel emissions that cause global warming.

3) Disapproval of EPA 'will soon be very clear' from the Washington Examiner by Zack Colman

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said there won't be any mistaking what Congress thinks about the Environmental Protection Agency when Republicans take control of the upper chamber in January.

4) How Cheap Oil Complicates Investing
from the Wall Street Journal by Gregory Zuckerman

For most Americans, this year's sudden collapse of oil prices appears to be unqualified good news. Oil prices have dropped 45% since June, amid surging output from U.S. shale fields, strong Saudi Arabian production and weak demand from Asia and elsewhere. They dropped 12.2% just last week, closing Friday at \$57.81 a barrel. Analysts at Credit Suisse and other banks say it will take years before oil prices return to \$100-a-barrel levels.

5) Stuck Earning \$1 a Day? Exxon Wants to Be Your New Best Friend
from Bloomberg News by Matthew Campbell, Tara Patel and Alex Moraes

Big Oil and King Coal are in it for the little guy. Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., Peabody Energy Corp. and Glencore Plc have increasingly taken to portraying themselves as champions of the world's poor. Billions of people in developing countries, they say, need access to cheap oil, natural gas and coal to pull themselves from poverty into the middle class.

6) The Democratic Party debates its soul
from Politico Magazine by David Rogers

With the loss of the Senate and President Barack Obama reduced to lame duck status, Democrats in Congress seem torn between two choices: dig in or head to the hills and try to rebuild a guerrilla army.

7) AAA: Consumers now saving \$100 per month on gasoline
from Fuel Fix by Ryan Holeywell

U.S. households are saving about \$100 per month on gasoline prices today compared to peak prices they experienced during the spring and summer, AAA said Friday.

8) Oil and Gas Industry Faces Its Methane Problem
from National Geographic by Christina Nunez

Seen with the naked eye, a natural gas facility's storage tanks and pipes appear fairly innocuous—boring, in fact. Switch to an infrared camera, and it looks like a five-alarm fire. Clouds of gas billow upward, spewing methane gas into the atmosphere.

9) U.S. Stock-Index Futures Advance After Rout as Exxon Mobil Gains
from Bloomberg News by Sofia Horta e Costa

U.S. stock-index futures rose, indicating the Standard & Poor's 500 Index will rebound after its worst week in more than two years, amid confidence that the nation's economy can withstand a global slowdown.

Oil

10) Oil Prices Rebound on Disrupted Exports
from the Wall Street Journal by Georgi Kantchev

Oil prices rebounded Monday as armed clashes in Libya over the weekend disrupted oil exports.

11) How cheap oil changes the world
from the Christian Science Monitor by David Unger

Consumers get lower heating bills and prices at the pump. Russia, Iran, and Venezuela face shrinking treasuries, while Saudi Arabia tries to still US drills.

12) U.A.E. Sees OPEC Output Unchanged Even If Oil Drops to \$40
from Bloomberg News by Anthony DiPaola and Mahmoud Habboush

OPEC will stand by its decision not to cut output even if oil prices fall as low as \$40 a barrel and will wait at least three months before considering an emergency meeting, the United Arab Emirates' energy minister said.

13) How America is Kicking Its Oil Habit
from Bloomberg News by Lynn Doan and Dan Murtaugh

The U.S. is producing the most oil in 31 years, economic growth is picking up and crude prices are plunging. So why is Americans' use of petroleum waning?

14) Will cheap oil kill Keystone?
from Politico by Elana Schor

Greens who want President Barack Obama to kill the Keystone XL pipeline are adding a new weapon to their arsenal of protests and lawsuits — the world's glut of cheap oil.

15) Keystone XL groups wait on Nebraska court
from the Washington Examiner by Zack Colman

The Nebraska Supreme Court left every Keystone watcher hanging Friday, heading home for the weekend without ruling whether the state legislature could approve a new route for the controversial oil pipeline.

Utilities and Infrastructure

16) Eggnog and efficiency: How the holiday season affects utilities
from Utility Dive by Robert Walton

Buoyed by an improving economy, holiday spending is expected to rise this year. But consumers still looking for ways to avoid sticker shock need look no further than their energy use, say utilities.

17) New SC net metering agreement: Full retail rate, no solar fees
from Utility Dive by Gavin Bade

A major agreement has been reached between solar advocates and utilities in the debate over net metering in South Carolina, The State newspaper reports.

Coal

18) 'War on coal' goes global
from Politico Pro by Erica Martinson

U.S. coal producers once had high hopes for selling to energy-hungry Asia. But prices in those markets are plummeting, and China just pledged to cap its coal use and curb its carbon emissions.

19) Coal Demand Growth to Slow in Next Five Years on China, IEA Says
from Bloomberg News by Alessandro Vitelli

Global coal demand growth will slow in the five years through 2019 as China, the world's biggest consumer of the fuel, takes steps to cut energy intensity and diversify supply, according to the International Energy Agency.

20) China's Coal Addiction Brings Scourge of Black Lung
from the Wall Street Journal by Chuiun-Wei Yap

When the shortness of breath he suffered for months became so labored that it fractured his sleep, coal miner Ruan Fayou knew he needed help.

Renewables

21) EPA Delay Opens Window for RFS Reform
from Morning Consult by Davis Burroughs

The Environmental Protection Agency's lack of punctuality might have given the oil and gas industry and environmental advocates their best shot so far at undoing the Renewable Fuel Standard. But political realities of a Republican Senate means it could still be an uphill battle next year.

22) Capturing Carbon as a Byproduct of Running a Fuel Cell
from the New York Times by Matthew Wald

The more that engineers look, the more they find unexpected ways to capture carbon dioxide, a gas that scientists say threatens global climate stability.

A message from Southern Company:

Part of a common-sense national energy policy is developing a diverse portfolio of energy resources. Nuclear energy gives Americans what they want the most; more energy security, efficiency, affordability and a cleaner, healthier environment. Learn about how [Southern Company](#) is leading the nuclear energy renaissance with the construction of new units at Plant Vogtle in Georgia

OPINIONS, EDITORIALS, PERSPECTIVES

23) Transmission Is The Key To Achieving Climate Goals

from Morning Consult by Bill White

Saying that “much has been said and written” about EPA’s Clean Power Plan is an epic understatement. More than 1.6 million individuals, organizations, and businesses weighed in before the public comment period ended last Monday. Unfortunately, this avalanche of input – like the proposed rule itself – paid almost no attention to arguably the most well-established and cost-effective approach to reducing electric sector carbon emissions: expanding and upgrading high voltage transmission.

24) Congress's hostile takeover of endangered species efforts

from The Hill by Erik Molvar

Last week, Congress attached a rider to the omnibus spending bill that blocks the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from issuing new protections for both greater and Gunnison sage-grouse over the next year, dealing a blow to efforts to reverse these birds’ continued decline toward extinction.

A message from Southern Company:

Southern Company is working, exploring and innovating to come up with better ways to provide customers with clean, safe, reliable, affordable energy – and nuclear is an important piece of the puzzle. Nuclear energy fits into our diverse mix of smart energy resources. It’s a proven technology that is emission-free. To learn more about Southern Company’s development of the first new nuclear units in more than 30 years visit [southerncompany.com](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

RESEARCH REPORTS, ISSUE BRIEFS, CASE STUDIES

25) Will New Technologies Give Critical Boost to Solar Power?

from Yale’s Environment 360 by Cheryl Katz

Today, despite recent progress, solar power accounts for about one percent of the world’s energy mix. Yet the International Energy Agency (IEA) says that solar energy, most of it generated by decentralized “rooftop” photovoltaic systems, could well become the world’s single biggest source of electricity by mid-century.

26) Gasoline prices tend to have little effect on demand for car travel

from the U.S. Energy Information Administration by Michael Morris

The U.S. average retail price per gallon of regular motor gasoline has fallen 28% from its 2014 peak of \$3.70 per gallon on June 23, to \$2.68 per gallon on December 8. However, this price decline may not have much effect on automobile travel, and in turn, gasoline consumption. Gasoline is a relatively inelastic product, meaning changes in prices have little influence on demand.

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